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## **The 21<sup>st</sup> Navajo Nation Council**

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### **Kee Allen Begay: Change in venue is a major public safety concern for the two high profile cases**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, chairman for the Judiciary Committee, has expressed concerns regarding two high profile cases, Shirley vs. Morgan and Nelson vs. Initiative Committee to Reduce Navajo Nation Council and Dr. Joe Shirley, which will be rendered tomorrow by the Navajo Nation Supreme Court at the Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial Park.

Begay (Many Farms) said he is surprised of how the Navajo Nation Supreme Court has treated the nature of these two cases, which is unusual for high profile cases to be located in a public venue such as a public park.

"I just want to express my concern of how our Navajo Nation Supreme Court is literally showcasing these high profile cases and how the court is encouraging some sort of public reaction on their decision tomorrow at a public park," Begay said. "What is more, the high court needs to consider the public safety of those attending and those parties asked to be in attendance."

He also said the high court is in the position to showcase respect and k'é in court decisions of this magnitude, which may not be the case given the location of the event.

"I believe our traditional people would oppose to such showcasing and say that this hearing belongs in its proper place – the Navajo Nation Supreme Court room," explained Begay.

Another concern Begay expressed was the joint coordination effort between the executive branch and judicial branch in securing and publicizing the location of the high profile cases.

"It is especially obvious of what the announcement will be given that the location is in front of the Office of President," Begay said. "The Legislative Branch was not notified directly and had to get notice from various media outlets. I wish the best for our Navajo people."

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